

CRP Mid Contract Management

Iowa Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service

July 2012
Des Moines, Iowa

Name: _____

See attached aerial photo for areas to be treated.

Field(s): _____

Tract: _____

Purpose

Mid contract management (MCM) will be conducted on certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices. The purpose of MCM is to manage established plant communities in order to maintain an early successional stage. Management will:

- Increase plant community species and structural diversity.
- Provide wildlife habitat for those species that use early successional stage vegetative habitat.
- Provide habitat for declining species.
- Remove duff and control woody vegetation.

Where it applies

MCM applies to the listed CRP practices.

- CRP contracts beginning with 26th CRP sign-up are required to include an MCM component in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO).
- CRP contracts prior to 26th sign-up are not required to do MCM, but participants may voluntarily request to revise their CPO to include MCM.
- MCM activities must be completed before year 7 of a 10 year contract and before year 10 of a 15 year contract.
- MCM, voluntary or required, is cost shared by FSA at a 50 percent rate.
- CRP contracts used for biomass are not required to perform MCM. Biomass contracts follow CPO.
- Apply to the vegetative cover, but not to areas planted to trees or shrubs that may have been established at participants own expense to enhance erosion control, water quality, wildlife, and other types of cover, unless required by the District Forester or NRCS.

- MCM must not be performed during the CRP nesting or brood rearing season, May 15-August 1.
- Fall disking can be completed once - either Oct. 1-May 14 or Aug. 2-Sept. 30.
- CP10 and CP11 MCM options apply only to contracts enrolled prior to March 14, 2011.

Mid Contract Management (MCM) Guidance

- Eligible MCM options include: burning, spraying, disking, and interseeding.
- Managed haying or grazing with 25 percent rental rate payment reduction may be used to reduce duff prior to spraying, disking, or interseeding MCM options. Request this option from the local FSA office prior to use.
- Time periods for managed haying and grazing.
 - For Managed Haying: August 2 to September 30.
 - For Managed Grazing Split Option:
 - Early: April 1 to May 14
 - Late: August 2 to September 30
- NRCS standards and specifications (327, 338, 315, 645) will be used to apply MCM options.
- Interseeding. According to NRCS FOTG (327) Conservation Cover standard, interseeding requires that existing vegetation be weakened prior to interseeding. For CRP, the stand may be weakened by disking, prescribed fire or chemical application prior to the interseeding operation. - IF the stand was hayed or grazed, this also meets the criteria of weakening the stand prior to interseeding.
- Time periods for CRP interseeding of introduced forbs and legumes: August 2 to September 30 or March 1 to May 14.
- Time periods for CRP interseeding of native forbs and legumes: April 15 to May 14.



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MCM Options

Participants must choose ONE MCM option from those listed under their CRP practice.

MCM will be applied to approximately 1/3 of the acres in fields in the years listed, except for the following:

- Burning may be applied to a portion OR the entire contract, based on the burn plan.
- For fields of 20 acres or less, MCM may be applied to the entire field in the chosen year.
- For CP-33, MCM is applied to all acres twice during the contract. All acres will be treated both in contract years 3 and 6.

* For CP 9, 23, 23A, 27, 37, 38A and CREP, MCM is required for the wetland and buffer unless the area is inundated by water during the prescribed time frame for conducting MCM activities.

CP1 (Introduced Grasses) and CP2 (Native Grasses) – For new seedings, MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For existing seedings, MCM can be applied in Year 1.

-Eligible MCM options (**Choose one**)

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Spray		
	Spray & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		
	Interseed Only*		

* See Interseeding on page 1.

CP33 (Upland Habitat Buffers) – MCM will be applied to all acres during both contract years 3 and 6. Eligible MCM options (**choose one**) Note: Only native forbs are to be used for interseeding on CP33.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

CP10 (Existing Grasses--Introduced or Native) – MCM will be applied in years 1, 3, and 5 of the contract. All grasses– eligible MCM options (**Choose one.**)

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk & Interseed		
	Spray		
	Spray & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		
	Interseed Only*		

* See Interseeding on page 1.

CP4B and CP4D (Permanent Wildlife Habitat) – For 10-year contracts, MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9. Apply to the vegetative cover but not to areas planted to trees or shrubs unless required by the District Forester or NRCS. (**Choose one.**)

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Spray		
	Spray & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		
	Interseed Only*		

* See Interseeding on page 1

CP25 (Prairie Restoration) – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9. Eligible MCM options (**choose one**) Note: Managed haying or grazing is not allowed on CP25. Only natives can be used for interseeding on CP 25.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

CP3, 3A, 11 (Trees – Trees Already Established) – MCM is Tree Thinning, as determined by the District Forester.

*CP23 (Wetland Restoration) Re-enrollment and extension(REX)-15 years including the buffer and associated practices – MCM will be applied in years 1, 2, and 3, and again in years 7, 8, and 9. All Grasses – Options (**choose one**).

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

*CP9 (Shallow Water Area for Wildlife) including the buffer – MCM will be applied in year 5 of the contract. Options (**choose one**).

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

*CP23, CP23A (Wetland Restoration) and *CP37 (Duck Nesting Habitat) including the buffer – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9. All Grasses – Options (**choose one**)

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

*CP27, CP28 (Farmable Wetland Program) – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9. All grasses – Options (**choose one**)

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

CP31 (Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands) – MCM is thinning, if needed, at direction of Forest Service or NRCS.

REX Re-enrollments (Existing Practices) – 10 years :MCM will be applied in years 1, 3, and 5. All Grasses – Options (**choose one**)

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Spray		
	Spray & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		
	Interseed Only*		

Interseeding Only applies to CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D and CP10. *See Interseeding on page 1.

Trees Already Established – MCM is Tree Thinning, as determined by the District Forester.

REX Extensions – (Existing Practices) – contract extensions may be modified to include voluntary MCM which must be implemented before the start of the last 3 years of the contract. All Grasses – Options (**choose one**)

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Spray		
	Spray & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		
	Interseed Only*		

• Interseeding only applies to CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D and CP10. * See Interseeding on page 1.

Trees Already Established – MCM is Tree Thinning, as determined by the District Forester.

CP32 (Expired Hardwood Planting on Marginal Pastureland) MCM will be tree thinning if needed as directed by the District Forester or NRCS.

CP22 (Riparian Buffer) – MCM will be tree thinning if needed as directed by the District Forester or NRCS.

***CP23 (CREP-including the buffer)** – For contract more than 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5,7, and 9. (**choose one**) Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

CP21 (Filter Strip)—MCM will be applied in years 4, 5 and 6 of the contract. For contracts more than 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7 and 9. (**choose one**) Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

CP29 (Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer)—

For 10 year contracts apply MCM in years 4,5, and 6 of contract. For contracts more than 12 years in length apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of contact. (**choose one**)

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

CP30 (Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer)—For 10 year contracts apply MCM in years 4,5, and 6 of contract. For contracts more than 12 years in length apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of contact. (**choose one**)

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

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- MCM may be done during the blooming periods IF needed. But NOT during primary nesting season (May 15-Aug. 1)

CP 38B (Wetland Restoration, Wetland Restoration Non Flood Plains, Duck Nesting Habitat, and Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife) – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of the contract. (**choose one**) Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

CP 38C (Hardwood Tree Planting, Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands) – MCM will be thinning if needed at direction of the District Forester or NRCS.

CP 38E (Establishment of Permanent Native Grass, Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors-noneasement, Permanent Wildlife Habitat noneasement) – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of the contract. **(choose one)** Apply to the vegetative cover but not to areas planted to trees or shrubs unless required by District Forester or NRCS.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Spray		
	Spray & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		
	Interseed Only*		

* See Interseeding on page 1.

CP 38E (Vegetative Cover-Native Grass Already Established) – MCM will be applied in years 1, 3, and 5 of the contract. **(choose one)**

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

* See Interseeding on page 1.

CP 38E (Rare and Declining Habitats) – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of the contract. **(choose one)** Managed Haying and Grazing is not allowed. Natives must be used to interseed.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

CP 38E (Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds) – MCM will be applied in both years 3 and 6 of the contract. **(choose one)** Natives must be used to interseed.

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		

CP 42 (Pollinator Habitat) – MCM will be applied in years 4, 5 and 6. **(choose one)**

	MCM Options	Field #	Acres
	Disk		
	Disk & Interseed		
	Burn		
	Burn & Interseed		
	Interseeding Only*		

* See Interseeding on page 1. Interseed shall include species from all three bloom periods. Minimum is one species per bloom period. No grass will be interseeded.

Note:

- Spraying has been removed from options associated with wetland practices and water quality practices.
- When spraying vegetation, treatment should be applied at the lowest label rate.
- Spraying natives forbs and grasses, whether interseeding or not, should only be done in narrow strips, less than 2 feet wide, interspersed with much wider non-sprayed strips.
- Spraying products such as glyphosate at rates that do not kill but only suppress vegetation as a form of chemical mowing is not recommended by NRCS staff since this practice tends to produce herbicide resistant weed species.
- A written Burn Plan that meets the technical specifications of the Iowa NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 338 - Prescribed Burning must be developed at participant expense prior to conducting a burn.
- USDA no longer develops the actual burn plan in Iowa.
- USDA is not responsible for liability associated with burning CRP cover.